Translation and Globalization in 2015:
Impact, Effects and Consequences

The Concordia University Graduate Students Association in Translation is pleased to invite you to the 14th annual Voyages in Translation Studies conference, to be held on April 9, 2015. This year, the conference will explore the impact of globalization on Translation Studies and the translation profession. Given that translation scholars have been addressing globalization since the beginning of the twenty-first century, we believe there is now sufficient critical distance to reflect on its impact, effects and consequences. We are particularly honoured this year to welcome Professor Susan Bassnett from the University of Warwick as our keynote speaker.

Michael Cronin’s 2003 book, Translation and Globalization, serves as the cornerstone for reflecting on the consequences for translation in the global age, as it explores the impact that technological advances and organizational changes in economies and societies have had on translation. In their 2009 book, Translation in Global News, Susan Bassnett and Esperança Bielsa address the relationship between globalization and translation, arguing that despite the predominance of English as a global lingua franca, there has been “an exponential growth in the significance of translation, which becomes a key mediator of global communication. Yet language and translation have been systematically neglected in the current literature on globalization.” (Bielsa and Bassnett, 2009, p. 18). The time is ripe to assess the overall situation. In what way has the relationship between globalization and translation changed? What is the past and present impact of globalization on translation? Students in Translation Studies are invited to submit proposals for papers or posters on these and related topics. Suggested topics may include, but are not limited to:

Globalization and the Role of Translation

- Globalization in the twenty-first century: impact, effects, and consequences for translation and Translation Studies

- The influence of globalization on cultural openness and its role in translation, in particular with regard to the recent launching of the China Academy of Translation.

- With English as language of the Internet, what are the consequences for translation, and the changing power relations among languages?

- Has increased demand for translation had an impact on the status of the profession of translator and/or on Translation Studies?
• In what way has globalization redefined translation’s role in the relaying of information from conflict zones?

Globalization and Territory

• Globalization has redefined the concept of borders. Do literary works migrate differently in this context?

• Despite the proliferation of international networks, how do we explain the fact that literary translation programs continue to serve mainly national interests?

• How do technologies enabling us to transcend borders affect translation and translated texts? How is translation perceived, approached or carried out in this context?

• As a result of globalization, texts have been created that don’t belong to any one culture or language. How does this hybridity in literary works affect the translation process? What strategies should be used when translating a multilingual text?

Globalization and Minority

• Michael Cronin refers to the simultaneous globalization and minorization of all languages. How can we take an ethical approach to the fragility of the linguistic ecosystem?

• The translator as double agent: dual culture, dual identity.

• What are the pros and cons of globalization and the internationalization of literature in terms of representation of minority or majority languages?

• The cultural and postcolonial turn in translation studies seeks to restore the voices of colonial and minority cultures. Despite these efforts, minority voices in translation studies remain largely unheard, as the dialogue continues to be dominated by the Western translation tradition.

We welcome papers and posters on these or other topics related to the conference theme. Each paper will be allocated 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute question period.

Please send your 200-word abstract, in English or French, along with your name, address, university, program, and a brief bio-bibliography by December 15, 2014 to: tragrad1@gmail.com.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us at the above e-mail address.

We look forward to reading your submissions!

The Voyages in Translation Studies Organizing Committee